

Georgia Aquarium
Volunteer Diver Program – Tiered Structure

This document is to outline the path of progression through the volunteer diver program. The tiered structure is meant to provide volunteer divers with recognition for various levels of experience, work contribution, skill level, and certifications. This structure is a specific outline of eligibility for training, special projects, field diving opportunities, and more ALL **depending on availability**. It is not meant to be the sole criteria for such decisions. Diver proficiency, recent experience, other factors may also be taken into consideration. Dives should be evenly distributed throughout galleries; if a diver is not surface supply trained 50% of dives should take place in CW7 and 50% in OV. If a diver is surface supply trained, the diver should complete at least 50% of dives in surface supply galleries. It is the divers responsibility to make sure they are spreading their dives evenly, maintaining current CPR/AED/First Aid/O2 Provider, AND current physical. Each level should encompass all prerequisites from the preceding level as well as a renewed commitment. The prerequisites are numbered along the left column.

Volunteer Diver Candidate:

1. GAI Volunteer with an Open Water Diver certification from an internationally recognized certifying agency. In addition, must have current certifications for CPR, First Aid, and O2 Provider (we do not offer this initial classes to enter the program)
2. Twenty (20) logged dives
3. Completed 32 hours of volunteering in the Aquarium as approved by Volunteer Programs
4. Able to commit to 24 dives and 12 non-diving shifts per year
5. Able to pass a professional diver physical paid by the volunteer and administered through the direction of the Aquarium (\$370)
6. Complete an interview with GAI Dive Operations personnel
7. Able to pass a swim test administered by the Georgia Aquarium

Volunteer Diver 1:

1. Complete a dive program overview and orientation dive AND
2. Maintain assigned dive shifts in Volgistics (VIC), and maintain current CPR, First Aid, and O2 Provider
3. Maintain a current physical administered through the direction of the Georgia Aquarium
4. Show competency in all assigned tasks and work effectively with the Dive Safety and Husbandry Staff

Eligible for:

- Surface Supply Training
- Armada Training
- Hydrovac Training

Volunteer Diver 2:

1. Completed application for level 2
2. Served as a volunteer diver for a minimum of 9 months AND completed 24 Aquarium dives
3. Completed even distribution of dives at in least Ocean Voyager (OV) and Cold Water Quest (CW)

Eligible for:

- Dive Locker Maintenance Training Clinics
 - a) Fill Station Operator
 - b) BCD Inspection – Maintenance
 - c) Regulator Inspection – Maintenance (not Rebuilding or Servicing)
 - d) Umbilical Maintenance
 - e) Armada Maintenance
- DAN First Aid for Professional Divers Course with sustained volunteer commitment
- Dive physical compensation (\$370) with sustained volunteer commitment (24 dives per year, 12 non-diving shifts)
- Dive Show Training

Volunteer Diver 3

1. Completed application for level 3
2. Served as a volunteer diver for a minimum of 12 months AND completed 50 Aquarium dives
3. Surface Supply Trained
4. Completed a minimum of 2 Dive Locker Maintenance Training Clinics
5. Completed even distribution of dives in Ocean Voyager (OV), Cold Water Quest (CW), Tropical Diver (TD), and Freshwater/Georgia Scout (FW/GS)
6. Armada Trained
7. Hydrovac Trained

Eligible for:

- GAI Scientific Diver In Training (SDIT) Program
- Scuba/SS Tender Training and/or Signoff
- Secondary Safety Diver Training and/or Signoff
- Dive Ops Special Project Training

Volunteer Diver 4

1. Completed application for level 4
2. Served as a volunteer diver for a minimum of 18 months AND completed a minimum of 100 Aquarium dives
3. Completed even distribution of dives in Ocean Voyager (OV), Cold Water Quest (CW), Tropical Diver (TD), and Freshwater/Georgia Scout (FW/GS)
4. Completed 4 dive locker maintenance clinics
5. Completed a minimum of 18 evenly distributed dive locker maintenance shifts

6. Tended a minimum 12 dives (surface supply or scuba) separate from training
7. Completed 100% of SDIT Training

Eligible for:

- GAI Scientific Diver In Training - Check Out Dive
- Rescue Training
- Essentials Training (Advanced Diving Techniques)
- Dry Suit Training
- Nitrox Training
- Scientific Diver Training

Volunteer Diver 5

1. Completed application for level 5
2. Served as a volunteer for a minimum of 24 months AND
3. Completed a minimum of 150 Aquarium dives
4. Completed even distribution of dives in Ocean Voyager (OV), Cold Water Quest (CW), Tropical Diver (TD), and Freshwater/Georgia Scout (FW/GS)
5. Completed all dive locker maintenance clinics
6. Completed a minimum of 36 evenly distributed dive locker maintenance shifts
7. Tended a minimum of 24 dives (surface supply or scuba) separate from training
8. Active volunteer dive program administration assistance
9. Completed SDIT Training and Check Out Dive
10. Completed 100% of Scientific Diver Training

Eligible for:

- Scubapro – Protech Regulator Service Training
- OTS Guardian/AGA Service Training
- Scooter Training
- Intro to Tech Training
- Scientific Diver Check-Out Dive
- Field Scientific Diving Opportunities
- DAN Instructor Training
- PSI Training
- Dive Ops Special Projects